

Activity 3: A Timeline of Light

One of the most important things that electrical energy produces is light. Tell your child that on the page "A Timeline of Light" she can try to order the light inventions according to the order she thinks they might have been discovered. Then let her put a date beside each one according to when she thinks it might have been invented. Once she has recorded the dates, she can see how close her guesses were to their actual historical order.

Call out the dates listed below. If your child is not familiar with CE and BCE, explain that these refer to "Common Era" — meaning dates that are close to our time now — and "Before Common Era" — dates that are much farther back in time. The larger the BCE date, the earlier it was in time (or the longer ago); the larger the CE date, the more recent the event. If your child is familiar with AD and BC, tell her that "CE" is the same as "AD" and "BC" is the same as "BCE" — CE and BCE are the abbreviations that scientists and historians are now more likely to use.

After your child completes the activity page, ask her to add the invention of the gas lamp (1792) and the invention of the electric light bulb (1880) to her Age 8-10 timeline. (If she wishes, she may also add other light-related inventions to the timeline.)

Answer Key:

- fluorescent lights (8) 1934 CE
- fire (1) before history
- flashlight (7) 1899 CE
- gas lamp (4) 1792 CE
- electric light bulb (5) 1880 CE
- kerosene lamp (6) 1853 CE
- LED light bulb (9) 1962 CE
- candle (3) 1000 BCE
- oil lamp (2) 4000 BCE

A TIMELINE OF LIGHT

Directions: Order the light inventions and discoveries below using the numbers 1 through 9 according to the order in which you think they might have been discovered. Then put a date beside each one as your guess of when it was invented or discovered.

1962 CE

before history

4000 BCE

1000 BCE

1899 CE

1792 CE

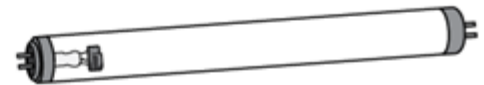
1934 CE

1853 CE

1880 CE



flourescent lights (_____)



fire (_____)



flashlight (_____)



gas lamp (_____)



electric light bulb (_____)



kerosene lamp (_____)



LED light bulb (_____)



candle (_____)



oil lamp (_____)

